

the
Starry Plough

An Camchéachta

Newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party

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NO WAR

BUT THE

CLASS WAR!

The voice of Republican Socialism!

The Starry Plough or An Camchéachta was first established in 1975 as the national newspaper of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

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http://irsm.org/irsp/

Prisoner of War Website:
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IRSM Statements:
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Deadlines
If you would like to highlight an issue of concern in your area and would like to have it published in the pages of The Starry Plough then get in contact with a local IRSP representative, The Starry Plough is your paper.

For national and international news, or news for your workplace and community/action group then please send your articles, reports and any other information to The Starry Plough at the address above.

Please remember that your articles and reports etc must be kept brief and to the point as the editorial collective reserve the right to edit its size, but not its content.

Deadline for next issue of The Starry Plough / An Camchéachta is October 26th 2001.

ANALÍS

THE POLICING DEBATE

Paul Little gives the IRSP's analysis of what is needed

What We Need, What We Want: What is Possible

POLICING DEBATE, CONWAY MILL, 3RD APRIL 2001

IRSP SUBMISSION, DELIVERED BY PAUL LITTLE

Policing, what we want, what we need and what is possible is the working title for tonight's debate and as the political process lurches from one crisis to another the question of how our communities are policed remains one of crucial importance to those of us who care passionately about the environment in which we raise our families.

The Republican Socialist Movement has been quite clear and consistent in regards to the policing debate, the RUC in any way, shape or form, under any set of initials, wearing any uniform is unacceptable to our people.

'Patten' itself is a compromise, not on policing but on fair and equal policing, why should anyone have to make compromises to secure fair and equal policing is beyond us. Let us say clearly here tonight that our communities have the right to fair and equal policing, nobody has the right to negotiate a compromise on fair and equal policing. The 'Patten' compromise was entitled a consultative process, many political parties and community groups attended public meetings and made written submissions, the IRSP were no different and made our views quite clear on the issue.

However, after the report was published not one political party came back into these communities and asked the ordinary working class people what we thought of the report, almost silently 'dis-



band the RUC' became 'implement Patten.' The British through Peter Mandelson turned the Patten report on its head and essentially concentrated on cosmetic changes to the RUC, uniforms, the name, emblems, this is what change is being delivered. No mention of banning plastic bullets, no disarming, white land rovers instead of gray ones. Lets send a clear message from this hall tonight we are not buying it, it is not enough. The RUC/PSNI still remains a paramilitary force that is in a position to implement British rule in Ireland by force of arms and some of the most draconian legislation in the world today. The IRSP reject this as we are sure most within the working class community do.

The fact that the British could not deliver a fair police service, nev-

ermind implement the flawed Patten recommendations is a clear indication that the British are not serious about social change. They are still wedded to a military strategy in Ireland. They have neither the courage or the will to deliver this most basic tenet of civil rights.

COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

On the issue of local restorative justice schemes the jury is still out, without a doubt they are a wonderful opportunity for the community to operate a fair and equal system that seeks not to criminalise but to assist in the gelling of community spirit. Unfortunately, there is evidence that the nationalist community that it is being operated by people of a singular political affiliation and therefore it is dogged with

allegations of favouritism and far from being a unifying community initiative it is proving to be a divisive force within the community, turning neighbour against neighbour. In the loyalist/Unionist community some of those involved in implementing restorative justice are associated with organisations who remain the largest importers and suppliers of illegal drugs in Ireland. The issue of community policing needs to be taken away from singular political identities and applied evenly across the board by a wide range of community personnel. There needs to be much more community discussion on the remit of community restorative justice, it should be remembered that whilst restorative justice is quite new to Ireland it is not new elsewhere, especially in Australia where the initiative originated.

We need to hear the experiences and see the results before we can judge the system that we have here. All is not lost on the issue of CRJ, but it will be if it continues down

its present course where it is viewed by most as another branch of a movement which persistently fails to deal with its own community offenders but has no problem in dishing out any amount of punishment to others outside their organisation.

The very issue boils down to who is the 'community'. We believe that all who live within a community are deserving of equal treatment, not just those who agree with a particular political viewpoint. Community Restorative Justice needs to speak out clearly and unambiguously against all anti community behaviour, not just the old chestnuts of joy riding, theft, underage drinking and drug related crime. We are all agreed that this type of behaviour is unacceptable in our communities, it is also essential that community restorative justice schemes speak out clearly against the type of anonymous leaflets that are flooding working class districts at present, these leaflets which name persistent offenders are also being used to malign, demonise and set up political opponents, leading to lynch mobs outside people's homes. Is that really the road we want to go down? I don't think so. There will always be those who place themselves on the outside of the community, but the one scenario that cannot be allowed to develop is that Community Restorative Justice no matter how good it does, is brought into disrepute by those who seek to exploit it for their own narrow political aims.

COMMUNITY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS FOR EVERYONE!

Nationalist community under constant attack in North Belfast

The recent events in North Belfast have been repeatedly condemned by the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

In a statement to the national and international press the IRSP accused the authorities and the state of abandoning the nationalist working class in North Belfast in the face of a concerted military offensive by loyalists.

The IRSP's North Belfast representative Paul Little said "The Nationalist working class communities in North Belfast have been thrown to the wolves on the altar of political expediency rather than the British govern-

ment tackling those responsible for the current level of loyalist attacks. It is with incredulity that we have listened to Dr. Reid and his claims to have reviewed the UDA ceasefire and declared it sound, whilst the Stormont assembly acts as if the current crisis on the streets of North Belfast has nothing to do with them.

Attacking the Good Friday Agreement as a 'farce' Paul Little said "All those political parties and governments who are party to the farce that is the Good Friday Agreement should wake up and smell the coffee, whilst the British government fail to

tackle loyalism that is refusing to change, refusing to live beside their Catholic neighbours without attacking them and choosing the weakest in our society as its victims all talk of a peaceful future here is fantasy with no basis in reality.

The nationalist working class is entitled to the same peaceful future as everyone else and cannot be written off as a sacrifice to sectarian bigotry

Right: The daily scene of terror at Holy Cross Primary School in Ardoyne



McALISKEY CALLS
FOR REPUBLICAN
SOCIALISM TO
BECOME MORE
RELEVANT

Bernadette McAliskey, speaking in Bray, County Wicklow, at the annual Seamus Costello commemoration called upon Republican Socialists to refocus on the ideals of Seamus Costello's Republican Socialism. The commemoration was held on the 6th October in the Little Bray cemetery where Seamus Costello is buried. Around a hundred people turned out to pay their respects to a man described by McAliskey as one of modern day Republicanism's great thinkers and motivators. She said that the struggle for a Workers Republic and international Socialism had lost one of the finest revolutionaries of his generation.

Another speaker, prominent Bray community activist Gerry McDonnell, said that in the 24 years since the assassination of Seamus Costello, the town had suffered an escalation of social deprivation including heroin addiction, anti-community behaviour, housing problems and a steady increase in unemployment. He said that the town had suffered by not having a Republican Socialist in the council chamber who was not under the influence of corporate greed and self indulgence. He said that the people holding the reigns of power in the town had not served the needs of the working class of the area well and asked those present to assist in the creation of a real and credible republican socialist alternative to benefit the working class of Bray and beyond.

Guest speaker and personal friend of Seamus Costello, Bernadette McAliskey, rounded off the commemoration by treating those present to an emotional rendition of the workers anthem "The Internationale".

WORKERS FORCED
TO ACT AS JUDGE
IN ASYLUM CASES

Under new legislation introduced in the 26 counties workers will now be obliged to refuse entry to potential asylum seekers trying to make it to Ireland.

Speaking at the ICTU biennial conference in Bundoran earlier this year, ICTU president Inez McCormack, said the new law is a breach of the 1953 Rights of Refugees Convention. The ICTU recommended that the union should expel members who engage in racist behaviour amongst other recommendations.

RÉIGIÚNACH

UNCENSORED POLITICS

News and views from republican socialists

Deaths at work equals Employers Terrorism!

An estimated 2000 mourners gathered at the end August for the funeral of Tadhg 'Timmy' Kelliher in Dublin's Ballinteer district. Timmy (58) is survived by his wife Bridgd and children Sean and Una. His brother Patrick paid tribute to him by say "He was a loyal friend and work mate".

Following the funeral of Timmy Kelliher from Ballinteer, Dublin, an Irish Republican Socialist Party Ard Comhairle representative said: "On behalf of the IRSP, I would like to pass on our heart felt condolences to Timmy's fam-

ily, friends and fellow work mates at this time. The death of yet another innocent construction worker is tantamount to 'employers terrorism' which has to be challenged before we are faced with further loss of life."

On the issue of construction worker unions taking up the fight against deaths at work IRSP party representative told The Starry Plough, "We welcome any attempt by workers to highlight this terrible issue by taking industrial action, such as one day stoppages. The safety and lives of

labourers on construction sites throughout the country are continually flouted by the bosses in their pursuit of profit."

Concluding, the IRSP representative said "The truth has to be stated and stated firmly, 'deaths at work equals employers terrorism'. Both Unionised and Non-Unionised labourers have now got to go that bit further by calling on other workplaces who have been repeatedly subjected to 'employers terrorism' to add their voices by taking similar industrial action."

REPUBLICAN SOCIALIST ARCHIVE PROJECT

Since late last year the 'Republican Socialist Archive Project' have been compiling the beginning of a detailed history archive on republican socialism.

Speaking earlier this year, one project worker informed 'The Starry Plough' that "The project so far consists of items such as old issues of 'The Starry Plough' but so far we haven't been able to put together a full collection of the paper since its formation in 1975, therefore if there are any past or present members of the IRSP who have old back issues of the paper laying around the house or away in the attic then please try and dig them out and make a donation to this important historical project.

"Some older members have made donations of pamphlets, leaflets and even posters, some of which are a bit damaged but the project is aware that more of these types of vital items are out there as the IRSP was highly active politically during the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's. There is also the option of copying photos or any other items that people don't wish to part with.

"People have even come forward with photographs and personal items belonging to comrades previously involved with the Republican Socialist Movement.

We have photos of marches, protests and commemorations throughout the years since the movements inception in 1974."

Asked as to what will eventually become of the projects items the project worker said "Well, eventually the 'Republican Socialist Archive Project' hopes that we may be able to open up a type of museum in which past, present future members and their families and friends can come and visit at their leisure, look back and remember comrades with pride. We hope that it will be able to give an historical background to the Republican Socialist Movement for newer members and its growing membership so they can learn from the past and build for the future of the Movement, to the class were it comes from and its goal of a 32 country, workers republic."

So if you have any of the above items or something else which you have hidden away gathering dust and would like to make an important donation, then please contact a member of the IRSP to notify the project, or better still, write to the Republican Socialist Archive Project directly at: RSAP, P.O. Box 1981, Derry, BT48 8GX, Ireland.

Republican Socialist Martyrs Flute Band

Band members required for RSMFB both male and female are welcome to get involved. Ages from 13 - 16 years. Weekly practice sessions. If you interested contact 02890 321024

EIRCOM - What Next?

In a previous edition of this paper, we called into question the right of the 26 County administration to sell what was then Telecom Eireann, the state communications company. We expressed outright opposition to privatisation of the company arguing that if the development went ahead that the future looked bleak for the company, so what has occurred since then?

For a moment ignore the fact the share flotation cost the public their savings, less than two years after the state sell off, the company is to be no more.

Dennis O'Brien, another crony of Fine Gael made a millionaire through bribing some minister, and the illustrious Tony O'Reilly of Independent fame, are locked in a bidding war for the remnants of Eircom. As with Esat, one of two Irish mobile phone company's Eircell the Telecom Eireann version, both concerns are now owned by British Telecom. What other country would trust the fate of a vital national interest such as a state communications structure to a foreign multi-national?

At this rate inevitably it will only be a matter of time before Eircom ceases to exist altogether for victory will go either to O'Brien or O'Reilly. Both are accountable to on-one.

What of the Irish public? Who in government now cares to stand over the promises made to them before the sell-off of Telecom Eireann? What of the company's employees who face an uncertain future at the hand of either O'Brien or O'Reilly? O'Brien we recall denied union rights to employees while in ownership of Esat.

The battle to save the state's communications company has been lost, but we should take this as an example as a lesson to save the limited number of concerns retained in our hands.

TOXIC WASTE "NO THANKS"

Separate proposals for refuse dumps across County Kildare is causing wide spread anger amongst locals. Many expressed fears about the health of children at a meeting of North West Kildare Environmental Protection Group in Coill Dubh.

Studies made by the British Medical Journal suggested an increase in the risk of birth defects for babies living near dumps. Indications were also made of a greater likelihood of defects such as spina bifida and asthma. The NWKEPG is actively opposing plans for a dump at Drenid-Timahoe as well as a similar proposal for locations at Usk and a site near Robertstown has also led to local protests.

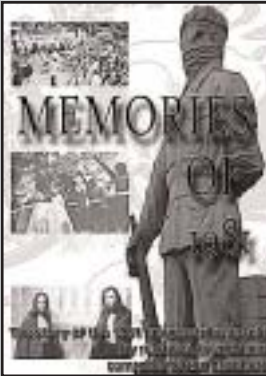
Speaking to The Starry Plough one local activist said "Residents argue that it would be virtually impossible to prevent leakage from these dumps into the Blackwater and Boyne rivers and, eventually, the Barrow river. It is wrong that in this day and age that local authorities can't develop a sound environmentally friendly way of disposing of our waste. What they (the local authorities) want to have is a quick fix but residents must stand firm as it's not on!"



Hunger Strike Book Now On Sale

A new booklet, "Memories of 1981", is now on sale. It was officially launched during the Celebration of Resistance Weekend in Derry. It includes biographies of the ten hunger strikers as well as an historic look at the use of hunger strike as a form of protest. It also includes eyewitness accounts of 1981 from friends, comrades and relatives of the hunger strikers.

It costs £3 + £2 P&P and is available from:
Starry Plough Publications
PO Box 1981
Derry
BT 48 8GX
IRELAND



RACIAL TENSION

Violence spills onto streets of Cork

Racial tension in the northside of Cork has been simmering for some time. There has been a high influx of immigrants into the area over the past few years. This tension erupted on Sept. 10th. last, when a shop lifting incident at a shop in Shandon Street, operated by a Nigerian national, Mr. Yemi Adams and his Irish wife developed into a mini riot.

In the following interview with the Starry Plough, Mr. Adams tells his story.

Question: Can you give a background to your arrival in Ireland?

Answer: I spent my first 15 years in Lagos, Nigeria. My father had been a Minister of Finance in the Nigerian Government for a period during this time. I then moved to London as a student and stayed for 5 years. Following this I returned to Nigeria for a period. I then moved to Dublin to continue with my education. It was here that I met my wife and we now have a young child.

Question: How long have you lived in Cork?

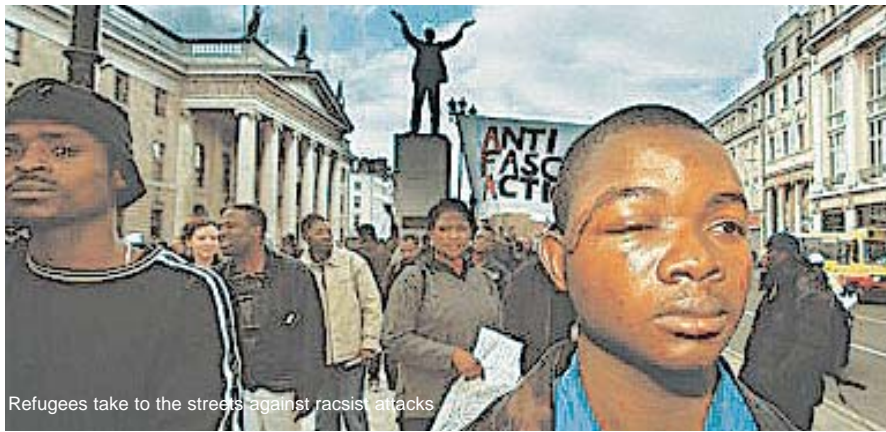
Answer: We moved to Cork approx. 2 years ago. I studied Linguistics and Tourism for a period at the Cork College of Commerce. But having witnessed racism I did not think I could promote tourism in Ireland, so I discontinued my studies. We opened this shop about 1 year ago.

Question: Prior to this incident, have you previously experienced racism at the shop?

Answer: Virtually from day one we have been subjected to racism. People have continuously spat at the shop window as they passed by, for instance. There has been constant verbal abuse. I have been physically abused and have had stitches to prove this. I did not report this to the police, as I did not want to have people before the courts. Many of my friends have had trouble when walking the streets and are often refused entry to different places.

Question: In relation to this particular incident, what in your opinion, led to the confrontation?

Answer: It all started when a boy of about 15 years and a girl of about 11 years entered the shop and stole items of clothing. I was down the street and my wife contacted me. When I arrived at the shop front a man and a woman came from the pub across the street and began to hurl abuse etc.. I pleaded with them for the return of my goods and said that I did not want any trouble. Within



Refugees take to the streets against racist attacks

a short period many people had joined in. Some of my friends who also have shops on the street came to our assistance. There were about 20 to 25 people attacking the shop and about another 20 people standing about, encouraging and shouting abuse. What was sad was that I recognised a couple of people who I thought were friendly to me. Also, as we waited for the police to arrive I noticed one man, who I thought to be a policeman just waiting there, without coming to help. Eventually the police came after about half an hour.

The way the police are taking it is; these people were drunk. What really happened is that these people were not drunk. This was a deliberate attack. Later some people came back and wanted to fight again. My friends were very angry, but I said to them that the police were aware of what happened and that if something like this happens again, the blame would be put on me.

It's not the 1st. time, not the 2nd. time that there has been fights on this street. We have had problems with people on the street or in town in the past, maybe not so serious. But this one is. In the past the different ethnic shops on the street have received hand written letters with the Nazi sign saying 'We are going to burn your shop' 'We are going to burn your family' 'We are going to burn you 'til you're dead. That night people stood outside with burning lighters in their hands. The threat is enough for you to run away.

I am not a freedom fighter. I don't want to be Martin Luther King or Malcolm X. I'm just trying to keep the family running, to be able to provide food for the house and pay the rent, that's all. If I close down the premises they cannot come to fight me at my house, because they will not know where I live. It is better to forget it.

When we opened 1st. this was the first African food store in Cork and many came to support us. But we had to stop selling the food as people kept coming in asking for drugs. Now we sell

cosmetics and clothing.

Question: How has this affected yourself and your family?

Answer: I am not afraid for myself. But I am afraid for my family, especially as my wife and young son witnessed me being beaten up. Also, my wife is very afraid. Before this my wife worked the shop and I worked on getting the items that we sell. This sometimes meant travelling on the ferry for 6 hours each way. We started off very small, buying small amounts, selling and then buying a little more to try and build up the business. We cannot afford to buy big stocks all at once.

Now, this means that I cannot leave my wife here on her own. Also, we cannot afford to pay someone to be with her. It does not really affect me, but it affects my family a lot. My family couldn't handle it because they have never seen anything like it before. Now my wife is terrified. Her sister from Dublin arrived yesterday to keep her company while I packed the stock.

Question: What affect has all this had on your business?

Answer: Since the attack business has more or less stopped. No one comes in anymore. I am closing the shop.

Question: What are your future plans?

Answer: When I close we will sit and plan about what we can do next.

Question: How do you see the future for ethnic groups in Ireland in relation to tolerance and integration?

Answer: Everyone has a different experience. It is only your own that you really know about. Because of the experiences that my friends have had, they were willing to help defend. It was the same in Dublin before, but it's not happening anymore. As the ethnic groups grow people are getting used to each other. It will take time. People will accept.

Most of the ethnic people have nowhere to go. There will be a gradual understanding that people will have of each other. There can be no solution until we wait for everyone to understand for themselves.

The I.R.S.P. in Cork calls on the community in the area not to be drawn into conflict with members of our ethnic community, under any circumstances.

For example, this clash was sparked off by a blatant act of shoplifting and nothing else. We have spoken to people who were drawn into this clash. They had been told that Mr. Adams had assaulted 2 children. Strong evidence supplied to us, suggests that the young people involved in the incident were sent into the shop by adults to steal. When apprehended, the adults involved told blatant lies to passers by and word spread in the locality, resulting in people converging on the shop.

The I.R.S.P. in Cork implores the community to consider how we treat members of our ethnic community. We draw a comparison of attitude between those who attacked a family in Shandon Street, Cork, and those loyalists who have launched horrific attacks and a bombing on innocent Catholic children on their way to school in the Ardoyne area of Belfast.

Just as the Jews were murdered and driven out of Germany, just as the Catholics were murdered and driven out in areas of our own 6 counties, we have now already seen 1 family of our ethnic community in Cork driven out.

The I.R.S.P. furthermore calls on people to think long and hard about our own moral responsibility in ensuring that our children are raised with values that reflect the friendly culture which the people of the northside of Cork always prided themselves in.

This is Republican

The Irish Republican Socialist Party is an organisation created by and for working class people, to aid working class liberation in Ireland and internationally with others who share that common goal. The IRSP stands in the tradition of James Connolly, seeking an end to all forms of exploitation and the creation of a 32 county socialist republic, with the working class collectively owning the means of production, distribution, and exchange, as well as democratically administering society.

Socialism

The socialism we embrace is the kind that liberates, not enslaves. We strive towards a society that functions to meet human needs, not the need for profit. Our socialism is a means of liberating our class from all forms of oppression, whether economic, political, religious, cultural or social. It is a socialism that envisions our class controlling their own destinies and that of the nation as a whole.

National Liberation

The struggle for national liberation cannot be separated from the class struggle. Any attempt to isolate one from the other will result in failure. It is meaningless to speak of a free nation, if the overwhelming majority remain oppressed, and national sovereignty is lost through multinational corporate control of the economy just as much as by partition. At the same time, someone who refuses to challenge British imperialism in Ireland cannot claim to be fighting for socialism and the continuation of partition props up the divisions in the working class of Ireland that hold us back from our own liberation. We have no choice in whether or not we wish to consider the interconnection of the national and class questions, reality forces us to do so.

We define the national liberation struggle as that struggle which seeks to force a British military withdrawal from the occupied six counties. The destruction of the pro-British loyalist armed forces. The withdrawal of British political influence from all parts of Ireland. The ending the partition of the island of Ireland and the overturning of both the partitionist governments presently administering political affairs of Ireland. The gaining of collective economic control of the nation's resources by the nation as a whole and the eradication of any control or influence exercised by foreign capitalists over any aspect of the Irish economy. The recognition of a separate Irish cultural identity and the establishment of revolutionary 32-county socialist republic.

We aim to build a strong alliance in Irish society of our class in towns and cities, agricultural workers in the country-side, unemployed workers, working class refugees, linked as a movement internationally with other like-minded liberation struggles.

We firmly stand-by the struggle for a republic. On that we are inflexible, but our struggle for the republic is a means to an end. For us, the national liberation struggle is but an aspect of the struggle for socialism.

Loyalism & Nationalism

We distinguish between loyalism and Protestantism. We recognise the right of everyone to their own religious beliefs, provided they do not use these beliefs to oppress others. We have no quarrel with Protestant workers and welcome them to join us in struggle. However, we stand totally opposed to the political

ideology of loyalism. Loyalism is a reactionary, sectarian and pro-imperialist ideology, with which we can make no compromise. We recognise that nationalism in the context of the Irish struggle is progressive, but we also recognise that nationalism can play a reactionary role. The national chauvinism of the Tories, National Front, etc. is counter-revolutionary and anathema to socialists. The nationalism of an oppressed country is vastly different from such reactionary jingoism. We support all struggles against imperialism throughout the world.

Class mobilisation

Only by mobilising our class north and south - Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter - can the goal of national liberation and socialism be achieved. Workers have distinct interests as a class, ultimately opposed to any other class, we must join together as a class to win control of society.

For a fighting union

As republican socialists, we take lesson from battles that have gone before us, in the community and in the workplace. We must reclaim our unions and organise the unorganised. We remain committed to the revolutionary industrial unionism of Larkin and Connolly. As republican socialists we see the creation of a fighting 'rank and file' trade union movement as something that still holds potential and we support the building of a revolutionary shop stewards' movement.

Equality

Our class faces daily, relentless assaults inflicted on us from many quarters and a constant onslaught of attempts to divide us. The IRSP oppose and fight against all forms of inequality and oppression, including that of women, travellers, lesbians, gays, or other sexual minorities, refugees, Africans, Asians, and any other oppressed sector of the working class. We oppose racism, Zionism, sexism, homophobia, national chauvinism, and anything else which divides our class. We support reproductive rights and unhindered access to contraception, including a woman's right to choose abortion. We are opposed to religious sectarianism and seek the complete separation of church and state and a secular society.

Our Earth

The increasing destruction of our environment is due to mismanagement of industrialisation and the inevitable product of a system, which puts profit before all else, that is, capitalism. The IRSP is committed to sustainable and renewable energy sources, preservation of the ecology and biodiversity of our planet, with protection of all species and the promotion of a healthy environment for all people and animal life.

Revolution not Reform

The IRSP believe that the present class system cannot be reformed out of existence. There exists no parliamentary road to socialism and the liberation of our class. We need to build an organised working class movement with the politics capable of leading the fight against capitalism. Our class are entitled to control over all the wealth of society and to obtain it through any means necessary.

If you agree with us, then we urge you to join the Irish Republican Socialist Party and help build a movement that can accomplish these aims and objectives. Be part of the Irish revolution!

STATEMENT FOLLOWING AMERICAN ATTACKS BY IRSC NA CO-ORDINATOR PEADAR BAILE

Statement of the North American Coordinator of the International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party on the Attacks on the United States. The North American Coordinator of the Irish Republican Socialist Party's International Department issued a lengthy statement in response to the attacks against American targets in New York and Washington, DC. The IRSP is re-issuing the message in full, despite its length, because we believe that it is important that the IRSP convey clearly its profound sympathy with the innocent working women and men who died in these attacks and the friends, family and loved ones of the victims, who must endure such a cruel loss. At the same time, the IRSP's International Department and its support organisation in North America, are equally concerned that they express their sympathy and solidarity with the many, many nations and peoples around the world who have endured violence and oppression at the hands of US imperialism, but not shared in the great outpouring of sympathy now being extended to the American people. The IRSP believes that working class people possess the integrity and creativity to create means for all nations to be given the security, comfort and respect that we all seek for ourselves and those dear to us. We believe the selfish exploitation of others and callous disregard of humanity carried out against the other nations of the world by the same class that lives as a parasite on the dignified labour of American working people as well is not representative of the actual interests of the vast majority of Americans, and it pains us to see these people forced to endure the violence reaped from the exploitation their government has sown in their name. For this reason, in Ireland and around the globe, we call upon our class to open up communication with the many different peoples of this world, who also live not through the deprivation of others but through their own honest toil, so as to ensure that never again will any nation be forced to confront the needless tragedy that so many thousands of Americans experienced on September 11th, 2001.

Statement of the North American Coordinator of the International Department of the Irish Republican Socialist Party on the Attacks on the United States

Allow me, as one living in the belly of the beast, to offer another perspective to those most loudly being expressed regarding the attacks made against the United States of America on Tuesday. The Irish Republican Socialist Party and its members and supporters in Canada and the US join you in grieving those innocents among the dead and injured. We do not support targeting of civilian locations in any form of warfare -- conventional or waged through guerilla tactics or the use of terror, even when, as in the case of the World Trade Center, it is also a strategic economic target. The Pentagon or Capitol Hill must be recognised as legitimate military targets. Certainly the United States has time and time again bombed such targets of other nations around the world. The Pentagon is the strategy center of the American military services and can hardly be argued to be anything other than a legitimate target. Certainly one might have thought that the White House or the CIA headquarters would have been more appropriate targets than the Capitol Building, but who can say that in a military attack, the center of the government is not a legitimate target.

We fear with near certainty that the American government's response will not be measured nor calm. The American government has a long history

of reacting as though it was immune from the very actions it so often perpetrates around the globe against others. France, Germany, England, Russia, Italy, Vietnam, Japan, Algeria, Sudan -- all these nations have at one time or another experienced the devastation of full scale war on their national soil. While hardly shining models all, I think it is clear that all of these nations show more restraint about jumping into armed conflicts than does the United States. Other than a civil war fought in the middle of the 19th century, the US people and the US government have not experienced the slaughter of innocents, the disruption of civil society, the destruction of a generation that other nations have and perhaps that has helped to ensure the American government's continued arrogance.

For that reason, we imagine the actions taken on Tuesday in New York and DC were a desperate attempt to get the US government and the US people to look anew at what they are doing to the rest of the globe, to the other nations and peoples of this planet. Let's hope that rather than flying into a blind rage, instead the people of America take this opportunity to see -- to see through the eyes of others in this world; to recognize the horror, the despair, and the rage their bombs caused in Iraq, in Libya, in Yugoslavia, in Laos, in Vietnam, in Grenada, in Panama, and the list goes on and on.

Let us hope that the American people and their government recognize that it is impossible to gain justice for those slaughtered in New York by slaughtering equally innocent people in Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan or somewhere else. There are no bombs so "smart" they will know how to seek out only those who killed civilians in New York, while leaving unharmed the mother with her infant standing beside him. It is not only Americans who feel the loss of loved ones and the agony of violence. Humans of every nation suffer, die, and lose the will to live from adversity to arduous to bear.

Let's hope that in looking at the horrifying images of New York, the American people immediately are prompted to think back to the innocent people on the streets of Baghdad when the US air force rained bombs down on them, on their children and on the millenniums old Ziggurat originally built there by one of the very first civilizations to arise among humankind and rightfully a treasure of the whole of humanity.

Let us hope they suddenly recognize how the Palestinians armed with only stones feel when an Israeli helicopter fires a missile into their home.

Let us hope that they are immediately granted an insight into the feelings of the people of Laos, whose Plain of Jars the US bombed so many times there was nothing but bomb craters left to be destroyed by the new bombs falling. Let us hope that they translate their own dread and sorrow into a recognition of how those in Hiroshima or Nagasaki must have felt -- before they were vaporized into shadows on the sidewalks. Let us hope they learn what it must have been like, when the civilians of Dresden had the air torn from their lungs by the firestorm caused by the Allies bombs and then watched one of Europe's most beautiful cities be erased in flame with their final look out upon the world.

Make no mistake concerning our sentiments in the Irish Republican Socialist Movement. We believe that violence and war are ugly. They are brutal. They are inhuman. And we believe this is true, whether they take place in the midst of New York's skyscrapers or in the deserts of North Africa. We believe that no sane individual will choose war over peace, if she or he can see another option available to them.

Continued on opposite page...

Last months attacks on New York and Washington by aeroplane suicide bombers have been rightly condemned across the world as an horrific tragedy. No one can in any form of language, justify such an attack on not thousands of innocent people.

The targets were without doubt symbols of US imperialism which would have been clear in the minds of those you carried out the attack.

The terrible events has triggered off a green light for the US and British imperialism that will inevitably hold serious consequences for anti-imperialists the world over. Their generalised 'war against terrorism' is an easy way to single out and eradicate any one who does not comply with their line of thought or behaviour. It most surely isn't a war directed solely against Bin-lid bin Laden's or other Islamic fundamentalists. Already emergency laws and draconian legislation has been passed on both sides of the Atlantic to counteract legitimate forms of protest or resistance to what has been passed or is about to happen as a result of those suicide attacks on innocent people in North America.

Just as live footage of those horrific events of September 11th flashed across our screens, the US 'War Department' was establish and immediately creating its targets by pumping out the now normal line of propaganda. A Brazilian student, Marcio, who quickly spotted the US propaganda move claimed that CNN was showing old scenes of celebrating Palestinians, claiming they were celebrating the World Trade Centre disaster. The scenes were not old, but were manipulated.

He said "In a recent statement CNN insisted that the famous footage was shot on the day of the World Trade Centre blast. Meanwhile, German reporters of the prestigious "Panorama" TV magazine investigated how the scenes were shot. What they found out was amazing. On German TV they aired, supposedly for the first time, parts of the entire 4-minute footage not previously shown.

"It became clear that a person was animating a couple of children to cheer in front of the camera. The

woman cheering was offered a candy to act cheerful. She later said she was shocked that her pictures were shown in the context of the terrorist attacks. She had no idea what they were for. A total view of the scene shows a street largely full of at best apathic people doing business as usual. Only a handful of people standing in front of the camera are celebrating'. However here in Ireland we are all familiar with years of US and British imperialism's propaganda machine. Throughout 'the troubles' the IRSM has suffered greatly at their hands.

This war, as well as the propaganda that capitalism has created around it is of course, like all wars before it, is an attempt by global capital to distract our anger off the real battle and that is permanent to this society and that's the class war.

Responsibility for what has happened in New York lies at the feet of the imperialist politics of the governments of the USA and their allies within the EU, Blair, Chirac, Shoeder, Putin or Berlusconi.

Talk of a deep recession has been on the cards for some time now, not to mention the growing discontentment amongst the workers of the world who have been ready for just about whatever action necessary in their stand against the bosses cutbacks. What better way to take peoples minds of widespread industrial action and pitch battles with the bosses than to pull the rug out from underneath them with a third world war.

As the US Congress held emergency sessions to debate what line of attack or defence they should employ. With the stroke of a pen over \$40 billion was put in the hands of Bush and his masters to assist whatever type of war effort or plan they come up with

in order to exact revenge on those responsible. Surely something is wrong there. Why has it been that for decades campaign groups and organisations fighting for, lets just say for example, better health or medical services in the fight against HIV or AIDS, even Cancer research, yet government funds were tied up elsewhere and the same would in deed go for legislation in support of effectively combating such issues.

No matter how many eyebrows are raised at the

ent countries as high level terrorists. This tactic stretches back to Nazi recruitment within the American secret services after the second world war, to the Death Squats in El Salvador, and the reactionary mercenaries in Afghanistan.

Middle class lefties of this and other countries, who have in previous wars favoured in ways the lesser of two evils or anyone who stands against the west and their allies. During the Gulf War trendy lefties called for 'Hands off Iraq'. One even went so far as to say that it hoped Saddam would give Maggie "a bloody nose". But those 'sects' have no connection or relevance either to the day to day lives of our class or what we have suffered.

We must refuse to be drawn in to taking sides, between 'good' and 'evil' or between 'the good guys' and 'the bad guys' as their media so dramatically put it. We will not be slaughtered in a third world war in the interests of global capital which is always fought at the price of the lives of our class.

Even though as republican socialists we do not support these kind of attacks as they cause confusion among the masses, which is not favourable for the cause of the oppressed of the world who fight to put an end to imperialism and its aggressive politics, we must give to these facts an anti imperialist and class answer.

The simplictics of a just fight between 'good' and 'evil' doesn't wash with republican socialists. Like all wars we stand firmly by our class, working class. Be it the working class of North America, Afghanistan or Iraq in the hope that the workers can effectively weaken and sabotage the war effort of their rulers in the way that the Iraqi workers attempted to do during Saddam's war

against Iran.

People of the whole world have reasons to be upset by the deep meaning of such attacks as what has occurred on September 11th. They are the consequence of the deepening of all fundamental contradictions of society. Contradictions condemned rightly by workers and the youth within the movements against imperialist globalisation. To be able to resolve such contradictions, there is no other possible way forward than to work in favour of a greater unity among the workers' struggles around the world and to raise even more our demands for social justice, true democracy and peace. If 'terrorist actions' are not going to fulfil these aims, measures of military retaliation, repression and imperialist governmental racism will allow it even less.

To follow the path traced by the movements of Seattle or Genoa, by the people of Africa, Asia or Latin America against all consequences of colonialism, is the only way to work seriously for the future of humanity.

As long as imperialism and its capitalist system exist, there will be new wars, attacks, external debt, famine and misery.

We therefore call for the widest unity possible of genuine working class, anti imperialist broad front to refuse any kind of military retaliation towards the people in struggle. We support all anti-imperialist mobilisations carried out by workers, peasants and students around the world.

All those who oppose racism should stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Arab, Muslim world and other communities of colour who are the victims of violence, harassment and intimidation in a racist frenzy that's being created throughout the United States. We call on all people to stand together and say no to racism.

As Marxists, we long for the day when we will see all of them both US imperialism and the fundamentalists who make the lives of our class a misery being dealt with by our class in all countries of the world in a war that will per mentally end all wars, the Class War!

For too long, America has acted as though the lives of thousands upon thousands of human innocents were nothing when compared to their own national interests. Millions of human lives were lost last year to hunger, while the US government purchased vast quantities of foodstuffs for the purpose of destroying them, to maintain the prices of US agricultural products. Delicate and imperilled ecosystems were pressed beyond redemption for future generations to use, because it enhanced the quarterly earnings of this or that corporation. Unique and proud communities of cultures whose history stretches across the centuries were rendered unstable and unsustainable because doing so provided -- however briefly -- a source of labour for sale cheaper than in another spot 75 miles away.

The people of Iraq were forced to endure daily bombings for every single day of a four year period for daring to exercise its sovereignty in opposition to American designs. The people of Palestine were told to refrain from defending themselves when Israel broke its word in the treaty they signed, refused to negotiate, and unleashed a wave of ongoing violence against the long exploited Palestinian people. The people of Yugoslavia suffered loss of life, or loved ones, or the chance for a life free of fear because of the relentless bombing by America and its NATO allies, yet noone seemed to weep for these mothers as they buried their murdered infants.

Likewise, America said nothing when the Guatemalan government failed to honour its word to the indigenous majority of that nation, despite the UNRG keeping theirs. The American people didn't clamor for justice for the mothers of the disappeared in Argentina or Chile, nor did they appear concerned when the masses of South Africa were still being told they must wait for the promise for a better life that had been flashed before them after their courageous struggle against Apartheid had.

Let us hope that from here forward, the working people of America will have cause to think carefully before they respond to some other nation differing with American policy by raining devastation from sleek and expensive, state-of-the-art aircraft -- never having to pause long enough or get close enough to see the blood and twisted limbs or hear the cries and screams that are left in their wake.

Not forced to think twice because they are now riddled with fear, as many US pundits have suggested -- we do not need more people in the world living in terror -- but forced to think twice because they have been so vividly reminded that innocent human life is precious and that we are most human when we are moved by our concerns for the well-being of other people, not by the bloodthirst for vengeance or the callousness of brutal self-interest.

While we in the Irish Republican Socialist Movement, both in North America and across the Atlantic in Ireland or England, believe that -- as Malcolm X warned the US long ago -- he chickens have now come home to roost, we take no pleasure in making that observation. Like all people with the capacity for caring, our thoughts are above all with the husbands, daughters, sons and wives, friends, co-workers, team-mates, lovers of the thousands of innocent, working class women and men whose lives were tragically cut short for sins not their own, but transgressions made in their name, without their consent by a State that undercuts continuously their ability to legitimize the pride they so long to feel for the land of their births. The tragedy we see, is that callous disregard for innocent human life by the US government was answered by equally cynical disregard for more innocent human beings, so that none can lay claim to justice having been done, but only others having joined US imperialism on the path to barbarism.

But, as true as it is that such violence is

barbaric, base, and vile, let us also remember that there are things even more dehumanizing. Such as the experience of being confronted by another with the capacity for terrible violence, being forced into submission and being too frightened to do anything but live as a slave, in degradation and oppression without answering this injustice. If violence is used to hold a people in unjust and humiliating bondage, then as abhorrent as it is, violence must often be used in response to gain back ones freedom, dignity, and humanity. No nation, no class, no people should ever feel that they are free to use violence for their objectives while claiming those against whom they direct this violence against have no right to do the same. So long as the weapons that America wields in its military and sells to virtually every repressive regime on this planet serve to exploit and violate another people, those people will have no recourse but to use the same in their quest for justice and liberty.

A State standing with gun in hand and innocent blood up to its elbows is ill-advised to select that time to lecture to another nation on the sanctity of human life and and concern for the grieving of widows and orphans. One is reminded of the British government, its occupation of six Irish counties punctuated with the presence of thousands of armed soldiers and police or loyalist paramilitaries, fresh from hurling bombs at five or six year-old girls adopting tones of self-righteousness while telling Irish republicans and republican socialists that their is no room for the gun in Irish politics -- preaching the imperative of decommissioning weapons used to defend the terrorised members of the nationalist working class communities while insisting that their own, far more massive, stockpile of weapons remain outside any discussion of threats to peace and agents of terror in the hearts and minds of the people of Ireland. If so convinced of the correctness of dialogue and the barbarism of brute force, let Britain and America show the way by ending their international weapons trading and provide a model to the rest of the world by relying on the compelling force of their arguments, not the coercion into agreement by threats and violence. Convince us of the claim to leading human civilization by their willingness to trust in the benefits of their vision to gain their desired goals and foreswear any attempt to gain acceptance of their rule if it becomes necessary to employ steel, fire and blood to obtain it.

Until that time, however, the power of the truth to set men free and the superiority of reasoned dialogue over brute force will retain the hollowness of promises made with fingers crossed. The instance by the United States of its right to treat other nation's with cruelty and contempt will remain a key source of carnage, regardless of who wields the weapon.

The old adage remains true that it is better to die on one's feet, as a human being, than to live on one's knees. So it is the best interests of preserving the humanity of all, that those who presently bully so as to exploit for their own benefit the toil of the people of another nation, stop now. That they instead extend their strong arms and hands in comforting embrace and selfless assistance to those who have yet to enjoy the prosperity created in the course of their exploitation by others. Because the working people of this planet, whose brain, muscle, creativity, and commitment has made possible every advance in improved quality of life, scientific breakthroughs, development of the arts, and expansion of human liberty and justice, are rewarded with degradation and violence, they will feel compelled to respond in kind. In the process, we will experience the additional tragedy of these honourable and well meaning working people being forced to sacrifice some of their self-esteem in order to not stand idle in the face of outrage and inhumanity.

Peadar Baile

NO WAR BUT THE CLASS WAR!

“Let the fight go on!” - Patsy O’Hara

About the Hunger Strike campaign in Ireland

In Spring 2001 a number of activists in Ireland became concerned at the lack of information available on the hunger strikes and protests of political prisoners in Turkey opposing the isolation 'F-Type' prisons. We decided to hold a Public Meeting and invite relatives and friends of the hunger strikers, from the IKM group in London, to explain the situation to an Irish audience. A meeting took place in Dublin in May, followed by others in Belfast and Derry.

The support groups currently active include: Dublin, Belfast, Derry, Omagh and Wicklow. If none of these groups are near you please e-mail the Dublin address for updates.

The Turkish Hunger Strikes are taking place in the same year as the 20th anniversary of the H-Block Hunger Strikes in Ireland and Irish Republicans have a natural interest and support for other people struggling for justice in this manner. However in no way is the campaign confined to people of a Republican outlook, all activists and groups concerned with human rights and democracy and supportive of the fight against the 'F-type' prisons are welcome to become involved.

No group near to me?

Why not set up a group, run an information stall or hold a meeting in your town. For information contact: turkishhungerstrike@ireland.com

Send letters of Protest to: The Turkish Ambassador Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, 11 Clyde Road Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Telephone: (01) 6685240 / 6601623
Faxes: (01) 668 5014
E-mail: turkemb@iol.ie

Boycott Holidays in Turkey

Tourism is a huge source of hard currency for the Turkish regime and it is one of the cheapest destinations for package sun holidays. Encourage your friends and family not to go to Turkey.

Awareness can also be raised by giving out leaflets at travel agencies which sell Turkish holidays or by asking your local travel agent not to publicise holidays in Turkey.

When you are on holiday, or even just out of the country on a short trip, send a postcard to the Turkish Embassy (address above), saying you had considered going to Turkey until you heard about the hunger strikes and human rights abuses there.

IDIRNÁISIÚNTA

SUPPORT THE DEATH FAST

H Blocks Ireland 1981 - F Types Turkey 2001

A number of IRSP personnel have recently returned home following the party's second fact finding mission to Turkey to see for themselves the plight of the death fasters and to see what the party could do to help resolve the situation. The delegation, which also included Provisional Sinn Féin and a representative of the Turkey-Ireland Solidarity Committee in Dublin met with a number of death fasters, at least one has since died. 39 prisoners and their relatives have now died.

The fast started last October against the Turkish Government's plans to introduce a new prison regime. This new system, approved by Amnesty International, would mean that the prisoners would lose their association with one another because they would be placed into single cells instead of the previous dormitory system. The prisoners feel that the dormitory situation provides them better protection against the well documented brutality of the prison system in Turkey. The IRSP delegation to Turkey was made up of Paul Little, Terry Harkin and Michael Devine, son of the INLA hungerstriker. This was a very emotional trip for everyone involved, particularly Michael Devine.

Report from IRSP delegation visit to Armutlu, Istanbul, Turkey 16th-23rd September, 2001.

Delegation- Terry Harkin-International Department, Paul Little - Ard Comhairle Micheal og Devine- Derry IRSP The IRSP delegation was part of an nine person delegation from Ireland those who also travelled were Alec McCrory, Robert Russell, Patrick McCotter, Jim McVeigh. (Belfast Committee). James O'Sullivan (Dublin Committee). Alex Maskey (Sinn Féin MLA). Rory O' Driscoll (London IKM) co-ordinated the visit.

The first part of the delegation travelled to Turkey and was arrested and held for an hour in Istanbul when they were released, they were then followed throughout the remaining days. They managed to lose the Turkish police on a number of occasions by splitting up and at different times during the week they all got into Armutlu for short periods to see the deathfasters.

The second part of the delegation, which included the IRSP representatives, was met at the airport and brought directly into Armutlu where they stayed for the duration of the visit.

ARMUTLU

Armutlu is the district of Istanbul where the TAYAD deathfasters



Section of Irish Delegation to Turkey.
From Left to right: Terry Harkin, Paul Little, James O'Sullivan and Micky Og Devine

live, it is essentially a shanty town carved into the side of one of the seven mountains that comprise the ancient city of Istanbul. The district has a population of 6-

burns on the skin. We took photographs of empty cartridges and samples for scientific examination in Ireland we also have the address of the manufactures in



Another death fast martyr being laid to rest in Turkey

8000 and was established over twenty years ago by the DHKC who seized the land from the rich capitalists who intended to build holiday hotels etc. the DHKC handed the land over to local people and the shanty town emerged over a number of years. When we arrived in Armutlu we found a community under siege from the Turkish military and police but it was a community unbowed and unbroken. In the week prior to our arrival in Armutlu the DHKC had lost two volunteers- one in a bombing in Taksim Square police head quarters, and one deathfast volunteer, the area had been attacked during the funeral of Umus Sahingoz, a 32-year old member of the Marxist group Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front -DHKC-P who died on deathfast, the area had been attacked by Turkish government forces using different types of CS gas produced and supplied by the US. We spoke to victims of the gas attack including at least one death-faster, the gas is a special gas that does not damage clothing but causes extreme acid type

America.

Following the state attack on the funeral of Umus Sahingoz the local resistance had barricaded the Armutlu district to keep the state forces out and it was into this tense atmosphere that our delegation were welcomed by the people of Armutlu.

The agenda and itinerary for our delegation was severely disrupted by the state security forces and the difficulties with getting interpreters due to the threat to them by the Turkish state cannot

be over stated but by the end of the week between the delegation in Armutlu and our colleagues who were staying outside we met all the groups that we were supposed to meet.

DEATH OF ABDULBARI YUSUFOGLU - TAYAD

In the early hours of Thursday 20th September Abdulbari Yusufoglu a member of TAYAD the relatives solidarity group died after 137 days on deathfast in Armutlu. Abdulbari was twenty one years old and came from the Izmir area of western Turkey and we had the honour of speaking with him two days before his death. The delegation took part in the burial rights for the death-faster before he was removed for interment in his home town. Overall it is the opinion of the delegation that the people of Armutlu, the deathfasters and their families are of the highest integrity, their dignity in the face of such oppression is a salutary lesson for us all. It is worth a special mention that all members of the delegation have been deeply affected by their time spent amongst the deathfasters in Armutlu and that Micheal og Devine although it was extremely difficult for him coped well when faced with the full horror of what is being allowed to happen in Turkey. It was an honour to be

able to pay our tribute to Abdulbari Yusufoglu in person.

Over the week of our delegation visit we spent the most of our time with the DHKC-P in Armutlu and had a number of meetings with the TAYAD (Solidarity hunger strikers outside the prisons and families and supporters) deathfasters. We also met with deathfast representatives from the TKM(ML) Turkish Communist Party, and a delegation of Turkish Human Rights Lawyers. We also had a visit and interview with the editorial staff of the left wing human rights magazine VATAN that has been raided and suppressed on a number of occasions by the Turkish state. On the Friday we held a press conference outside the main deathfast house in Armutlu, approximately 10 television crews attended the press conference which was given by Paul Little (Belfast Committee), James O'Sullivan (Dublin Committee), Micheal Og Devine (Derry Committee), Terry Harkin (IRSP International Department).

It is our considered opinion that both the prisoners and their supporters will continue on hunger-strike until the situation inside the prisons is resolved. The first step on the road to a resolution will be to initiate dialogue between the Turkish state and the prisoners representatives, the prisoners and their supporters would welcome this dialogue.

We recommend that all international pressure that can be garnered together is brought to bear on the Turkish government to initiate this dialogue.

Latest News

Since this report was filed we recieved reports of four other deaths bringing the total to 39.

These were on Thursday 27th September in Istanbul:

**Ali Riza Demir
Zeynep Arkan**

and on Friday 28th September in Ankara:

**Özlem Durakcan
Ayse Bastimur**

"EXPEL TURKEY'S REPRESENTATIVE IN IRELAND" - Micky Og Devine

In a statement following the country's first national rally at the GPO in Dublin on 8th September, in support of Turkish hunger strikers, Irish Republican Socialist Party representative, Mr Micky Og Devine said, "Today's rally should just be the start of a mass solidarity movement which is needed to break down the silence surrounding our comrades struggle for justice. The military Turkish state is employing all forms of the repressive measures at their disposal to annihilate this revolutionary struggle. So we must employ clear, decisive, solidarity actions in order to change this ongoing massacre, such as

today's call made from the platform, that the 26 County administration must immediately expel Turkey's representative in Ireland and for an increased campaign until the political prisoners in Turkey have fully achieved their demands."

Addressing the rally which had Turkish hunger strike representative committees from across Ireland in attendance, Mr Devine said "Let no Irish republican or socialist stand idly by whilst there is still a continuing death fast in Turkey. The working class people of Ireland are with you!"

RED LETTERS

Starry Plough Readers Views

CAPITALISM TO BLAME FOR JOB LOSSES AT AER LINGUS - NOT TERROR ATTACKS

A chara,

I was reading in the 'Star' under 'Star comment' on Wednesday 19 September 2001 a short article regarding the 1,700 job losses at Aer Lingus. Of course any job losses are bad news for the working class but the way the 'star' in its comment piece attributes these job losses to what happened in New York and Washington is opportunist to say the least.

The article starts off in much the same way as most of the crocodile tears wept by the capitalist governments and media. It begins, 'given the scale of the atrocities in the US, it is perhaps trite to complain about their impact on our own economy; 'Nothing can overshadow the deaths of more than 5,000 innocent people as they went about their daily work; (Star 19/9/01) 'But already 1,700 Irish workers in Aer Lingus have paid a significant price for the bloody actions of Osama bin Laden; (ihid)

This article in the pro-capitalist tabloids pre-supports, along with the majority of the

western media, that this person, Osama bin Laden is responsible for the attacks on the USA at all. After all any evidence suggesting his responsibility has been collated in the US chiefly by the C.I.A whose evidence on many issues in the past has been dubious to say the least. This piece of misleading journalism does not question the instability of the capitalist system, the major reason for any job losses, at all; to do so would not serve the interests of the economic system the media so slavishly serve. It was designed to create a feeling of false consciousness among workers at Aer Lingus meaning that if they direct their anger for losing their jobs at Osama bin

Laden, or for that matter who ever carried out the attacks, they will not question the real culprit which is the system under which we manage, or mismanage, our affairs known as capitalism. To support this claim that the capitalist economic system is responsible for job losses and very little to do with the attacks on the world trade centre and the pentagon it must be pointed out that long before the incidents in America jobs have been cut in many sectors of the employment industry in Ireland not least of all the Tram National companies, mainly US based, which produce computer software. Aer Lingus have been floating the idea of

reduction in staff for a number of months and weeks now and the events in the USA have given the capitalist media a thinly veiled excuse as to the reason why these job cuts have to be.

We are constantly told that there is no better way, or system, to manage our affairs than that practised by the so called western democracies (which at very best are liberal democracies something some what different from democracy its self) known as capitalism. Yet it is this same unstable system, which produces for profit not need that is responsible for managing industry and inevitably results in job cuts or at best a reduction in real wages. It could be argued that the capitalist system, either or indirectly, was responsible for the motives behind the attacks on New York and Washington in the first place! The opportunist reporting of the media in general is just another way of this corrupt imbecile capitalist system defending its self.

Kevin, Dublin



Aer Lingus - Not being honest?

A personal reflection by a Dublin IRSP and anti-drugs activist.

THE DRUGS DON'T WORK

To be a political activist in Dublin, you have to be a community and anti-drug activist. To be just a community and anti-drug activist you have got to be politically aware that in order to be in a position to change the environment in which you live, you have got to be prepared to challenge, at every opportunity those who deprive, neglect and ignore the less well off in society. You have to be prepared to expose those politicians who hold the power to organise a multi-faceted approach to not only dealing with the scourge of drug addiction, but also to the wider problem of social inequality.

Heroin addiction is closely related to disadvantage and poverty, the fact is that heroin addiction is almost totally a working class phenomenon. The communities where it has taking hold are precisely those which have been abandoned economically and socially by the state for many a year. Heroin addiction and accompanying HIV and Aids related death has become a daily fact of live for devastated inner-city communities and working class suburbs from Ballyfermot to Blanchardstown.

In 1995 the Inner-City Organisations Network (ICON) set up city-wide drugs campaign which was basically a pressure group that helped organise anti-drug communities and co-ordi-

nate anti-drug marches throughout the North of the city. Within a few short weeks regular huge meetings were attended by upwards of a thousand people followed, by marches against the main dealers in death, in the worst affected areas nightly 24 hour vigils and drug watches were common.

A second pressure group, Coalition of Communities Against Drugs was formed and represented the suburban west-side and south inner city areas mainly.

The tactics adopted by ICON and COCAD was to march on known drug dealers' homes and giving them an ultimatum, to stop dealing or else they were asked to leave the community. In some areas dealers were told to attend a meeting where they were to give a commitment to stop dealing, others despite the overwhelming evidence against them, denied involvement in drug dealing, and were told to leave the area.

While anti-drugs activists were determined to rid their communities of drug dealers, the same determination was being implemented by the state, using Garda and in particular the Special Branch to ensure that there would be no alternative community police force allowed to operate despite their abject

failure to deal with the drug barons. Community and anti-drugs activists across the city were harassed on a daily basis by elements within the Gardai and Special Branch. As in the 1980's anti-drug campaign where the state succeeded in smashing the anti-drugs movement by criminalising leading activists and imprisoning them after trail in the no jury special criminal court.

These same tactics were being used again by the state. In November 1996, one of the founder members and Chairperson of COCAD, Cecil Johnston and two other anti drug activist from Killinarden in Tallaght in South-West Dublin were refused bail in an exact repeat of events used fifteen years earlier.

On the 7th of June 1997, there seemed hope of a change when all sections of the media and state joined with many others to condemn those drug barons, who planned and carried out the despicable, cowardly murder on the outskirts of Dublin, of Veronica Guerin, a respected crime correspondent. The shock-waves caused by her death made the headlines of every national and international paper world-wide. The reality has been for years that large sections of the media, turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the extent of

the problem where the only lines written about those hundreds of victims who lost their lives due to the effect of drug abuse and the failure of successive Governments to deal adequately with the drug epidemic, were mostly confined to the death notices of a local newspaper.

Many communities and anti drugs activists in Dublin and beyond believed the death of Ms Guerin would have compelled those within the corridors of power to initiate a multi-faceted approach to the drug epidemic involving an input from both community and statutory bodies. this new approach we hoped, would not only proved capable of addressing the core underline factors in our society, which have for years proved instrumental in leading a large section of our youth in a wasted life of crime and drug abuse. Sadly, more than four years later, neither has proved the case, for despite the rhetoric from the likes of the main political parties and individuals, such as the Garda Commissioner and the Minister for Justice, working class communities in Dublin and beyond, remain plagued by the scourge of drug Abuse.

Part Two, to Follow in the next issue of the The Starry Plough.

BADLY NEEDED VOICE!

A Chara,

I heard the paper was being worked on again, hopefully it will hit the streets soon as I felt that it was a badly needed voice for working class activists all over the country.

Ciaran, Sligo

ARDOYNE

A Chairde,

As someone living close to the Ardoyne flashpoint where loyalists refuse to allow children to go to school, I feel it imperative that some wider action is taken to highlight the plight of these children and their parents.

The recent IRSP call for a general teachers strike is to be welcomed as nothing else seems to have helped up until now. I am not a member of the IRSP but I fully support that call by your party for teachers throughout the north to rally to the aid of the children in Ardoyne.

It was one of the few sensible ideas I have heard in relation to the crisis that we are facing daily in this area.

Mothers, fathers and their children have had to endure racial taunts, blast bombs and even had urine thrown at them as they made their way to Holy Cross Primary. In no other so called civilised society does this type of behaviour go unchallenged by the so-called forces of law and order.

As someone who witnesses that journey everyday I know how those children in Alabama must have felt as they made their way to their school amongst the vile racist hatred that was experienced by them. I have never seen anything like this before in my life.

Again I would like to thank you for providing me with a platform to express my views and best wishes with the relaunch of the paper.

Ardoyne Resident

(Name and Address supplied)

LITREACHA DEARGA

This is your page to create debate about the issues that affect the Working Class both at home and internationally. If you would like to contribute please send all correspondence to:

**LITREACHA DEARGA
Starry Plough
PO Box 1981
Derry
BT 48 8GX
IRELAND**

or email:

starry_plough@hotmail.com

Please remember to keep your letter brief and to the point as the editorial collective reserves the right to edit it's length but not it's content.

SUPPORT TURKEY'S DEATH FASTERS

A Chara,

It has been twenty years since ten men died in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh in their quest for political status. The blanket men fought daily battles against the system and a powerful spirit of resistance and resolve grew.

Last week I found that spirit and fight against oppression on the streets and in the houses of Armutlu in Istanbul. As a member of the IRSP delegation I felt honoured to meet with the death fasters their families and the people involved in the struggle. I felt a deep sense of affinity and for the first time felt that their struggle really is our struggle. These people are under extreme pressure from the fascist regime but show a determination that has to be commended by republican socialists.

The visit has left me both angry and emotional but I have also taken great heart from their dedication in achieving what we all want, the defeat of capitalism!

I feel it is the duty of the Irish people to come out in their support for the legitimate demands of the death fasters. The onus is on us all. Victory to the death fasters.

Michael Óg Devine, Doire

Cuimhneamh

We would like to remind our readers that all insertions must reach us before the last week of each month in which they wish their insertion to appear.

The Staff and Volunteers of the Irish National Liberation Army remember with pride our comrades who gave their lives in the struggle for National Liberation and Socialism.

Vol. Seamus Costello

Assassinated 5 Oct 77 Co. Wicklow

Vol. Tony McClelland

Killed in Action 16 Oct 79 Co. Armagh

Vol. Ronnie Bunting

Assassinated 15 Oct 80 Co. Antrim

Vol. Noel Little

Assassinated 15 Oct 80 Co. Antrim

Colm Maguire

POW 10 Oct 87 Portlaoise

Vol. Patrick Campbell

Killed in Action 10 Oct 99 Co. Antrim

"Whenever death may supound us, let it be welcome, provided that this, our battle cry, may reach some receptive ear and that other hands reach out to pick up our weapons, to entone our funeral dirge with the staccato of machine gun fire and new cries of battle and victory ever onward, Venceremos"

The Republican Socialist Prisoners of War in Maghaberry, Magilligan and Portlaoise, remember with sorrow and pride the revolutionaries who gave their lives to free Ireland's working class from the shackles of imperialism.

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"We remember their resolution, their uncompromising manner - they were good soldiers and good friends, they shall never be forgotten"

The Ard Comhairle and membership of the Irish Republican Socialist Party remember with pride

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"When the freedom of our country and class has been won, let us guard it well, remembering it was paid for in the blood of those now dead. The building of the revolutionary party is the only tribute befitting our comrades."

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